

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIEP-01 IO-13 DHA-02 EB-07

COME-00 OPIC-03 STR-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /097 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8329

INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, GB, US

SUBJ: BONGO RETURNS FROM U.S. WITH EXPECTATIONS OF AMERICAN
INVESTMENT

SUMMARY. IN AIRPORT ARRIVAL REMARKS SEPTEMBER 19, BONGO ANTICIPATED
ARRIVAL IN NEAR FUTURE OF U.S. BUSINESS REPS TO WHOM HE SPOKE IN
NEW YORK AND SIGNIFICANTLY MODERATED HIS REMARKS ABOUT SECRETARY'S
EFFORTS IN SOUTHER AFRICA. IN PRIVATE ASIDE, PRESIDENT SAID HE
WISHES MEET WITH ME SHORTLY TO DISCUSS FOLLOW-UP TO HIS U.S. VISIT.

ACTION REQUESTED: URGENT FILL-IN ON BONGO'S MEETINGS IN
U.S. WITH PRIVATE SECTOR AND ANY CONTACTS WITH USG REPS. END
SUMMARY.

1. PRESIDENT BONGO RETURNED TO LIBREVILLE SEPTEMBER 19 AT CONCLUSION
OF 12-DAY TRIP TO FRANCE, MEXICO, AND U.S.

2. DISCUSSING RESULTS OF TRIP AT AIRPORT PRESS CONFERENCE, PRESIDENT
NOTED ACCORDS SIGNED IN MEXICO (LIBREVILLE 1872) AND SAID GABONESE
CADRES AND STUDENTS WILL GO TO MEXICO FOR TRAINING IN VARIOUS
FIELDS. PRESIDENT WAS PARTICULARLY COMPLIMENTARY IN REFERENCES
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TO ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY EVIDENT IN MEXICAN PETRO-CHEMICAL IN-

DUSTRY, WHICH HE SINGLED OUT AS AREA OF PARTICULAR INTEREST
TO GOG.

3. DESPITE PRIVATE NATURE OF U.S. VISIT, PRESIDENT ACCORDED
IT GREATER ATTENTION IN HIS REMARKS THAN WAS GIVEN TO STOPS
IN FRANCE OR MEXICO. BONGO SAID HE HAD MET WITH NUMBER OF
AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN IN NEW YORK (HE DID NOT MENTION MEETINGS IN LOS
ANGELES)
AND HAD TOLD THEM THAT TIME HAD COME TO
DELIVER ON PAST PROMISES OF INVESTMENT IN GABON. U.S.
BUSINESSMEN, HE CONTINUED, TOLD HIM OF PROBLEMS THEY HAD
ENCOUNTERED IN PURSUING PROJECTS HERE (NOT OTHERWISE DEFINED),
AND EXPRESSED PARTICULAR INTEREST IN SUCH MAJOR PROJECTS AS
CELLULOSE, SANTA CLARA PORT, AND GRAND POUBARA DAM. AS
RESULT HIS NEW YORK CONTACTS, PRESIDENT SAID, GABON WOULD
RECEIVE VISIT OF NUMBER OF AMERICAN BUSINESS REPS IN NEAR
FUTURE -- ASSUMING, PRESIDENT ADDED, THAT "THOS WHO WORK
FOR ME IN NEW YORK DO THEIR JOB AND ISSUE VISAS PROMPTLY."
BONGO CONCLUDED BY CITING HIS MEETINGS WITH AMERICAN
BUSINESSMEN AND PROSPECTS OF INCREASED U.S. INVESTMENT AS
FURTHER STEP IN IMPLEMENTING HIS MARCH 11 PROMISE THAT
GABON WOULD HENCEFORTH BE "COUNTRY WITH SEVERAL DOORS"
OPEN TO ALL.

4. IN REPLY TO SUBSEQUENT QUESTION ABOUT SECRETARY KISSINGER'S
MEDIATION EFFORTS IN SOUTHER AFRICA, BONGO SIGNIFICANTLY
MODERATED HIS REMARKS AT PARIS PRESS CONFERENCE (LIBREVILLE
1803, PARIS 26682) PRIOR TO U.S. VISIT. WHILE PRESIDENT AGAIN
DESCRIBED SECRETARY'S TRIP AS "TOO LATE" AND INSISTED THAT
DIALOGUE WITH VORSTER AND SMITH DOOMED TO FAILURE BECAUSE OF THEIR
INTRASIGENCE, HE ESCHEWED CRITICAL TONE OF PARIS
COMMENTARY AND SPECIFICALLY ACKNOWLEDGED SECRETARY'S "GOOD
WILL" IN UNDERTAKING CURRENT MISSION. HE EXPRESSED HOPE
THAT SECRETARY'S TRIP WOULD PRODUCE SOME FORWARD MOVEMENT,
BUT CONCLUDED WITH PESSIMISTIC ASSESSMENT THAT ARMED STRUGGLE
HAS BECOME ONLY COURSE WITH PROSPECTS OF SUCCESS.

5. IN PRIVATE ASIDE, BONGO DESCRIBED TRIP TO ME AS HIGHLY
SUCCESSFUL AND SAID HE WISHES MEET WITH ME SHORTLY TO
DISCUSS FOLLOW-UP TO HIS CONTACTS IN U.S. SEVERAL OF HIS
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AIDES ALSO EXPRESSED TO ME SATISFACTION WITH ARRANGEMENTS
FOR AND RESULTS OF U.S. VISIT, WITH ONE ADVISER PREDICTING
CONFIDENTLY THAT "AT LEAST FIVE" AMERICAN COMPANIES WOULD
COME TO GABON AS RESULT OF PRESIDENT'S SALESMANSHIP. CABINET
DIRECTOR MAYILA ADDED INFORMATION THAT HE HAD EXTENDED
MEETING WITH PAN AMERICAN REGARDING POSSIBLE MANAGEMENT/
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO AIR GABON, BUT HAD NO OPPORTUNITY
AT AIRPORT TO PROVIDE ME DETAILS.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: WOULD APPRECIATE ON URGENT BASIS ANY INFORMATION DEPARTMENT CAN PROVIDE REGARDING (A) EXACTLY WHOM BONGO MET IN PRIVATE SECTOR; (B) NATURE OF EXCHANGES, PARTICULARLY COMPLAINTSEVIDENTLY VOICED BY U.S. FIRMS ABOUT PROBLEMS THEY HAVE EONCOUNTERED HERE AND ANY COMMITMENTS MADE EITHER ON U.S. SIDE OR BY BONGO; (C) PLANS BY FIRMS FOR FOLLOW-UP VISITS OR FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS WHICH EMBASSY CAN TAKE; AND (D) ANY SUBSTANTIVE CONTACTS BETWEEN BONGO AND OFFICIAL USG REPS. AS BONGO LIKELY SEEK MEETING WITH ME IN NEXT DAY OR TWO, IMMEDIATE REPLY WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL. STEIGMAN

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